

# METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL CLOSURE CAP

## STORMWATER DAMAGE AND RESTORATION UPDATE

**SMITH+GARDNER**

*Metro Nashville*  
***PUBLIC WORKS***

*Presented at the*

**Presenters:**

John M. Gardner, P.E.

Clayton Hand, P.E.



**April 20-22, 2016**

**Gatlinburg, Tennessee**



**SMITH+GARDNER**

# METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL

## Metro Nashville Public Works

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## ***Metro Thermal Ash Monofill***

- ❖ **Located in Downtown Nashville along Cumberland River**
- ❖ **Closed in October 2004**
- ❖ **Total Footprint 15 acres**







**1Q 2010**

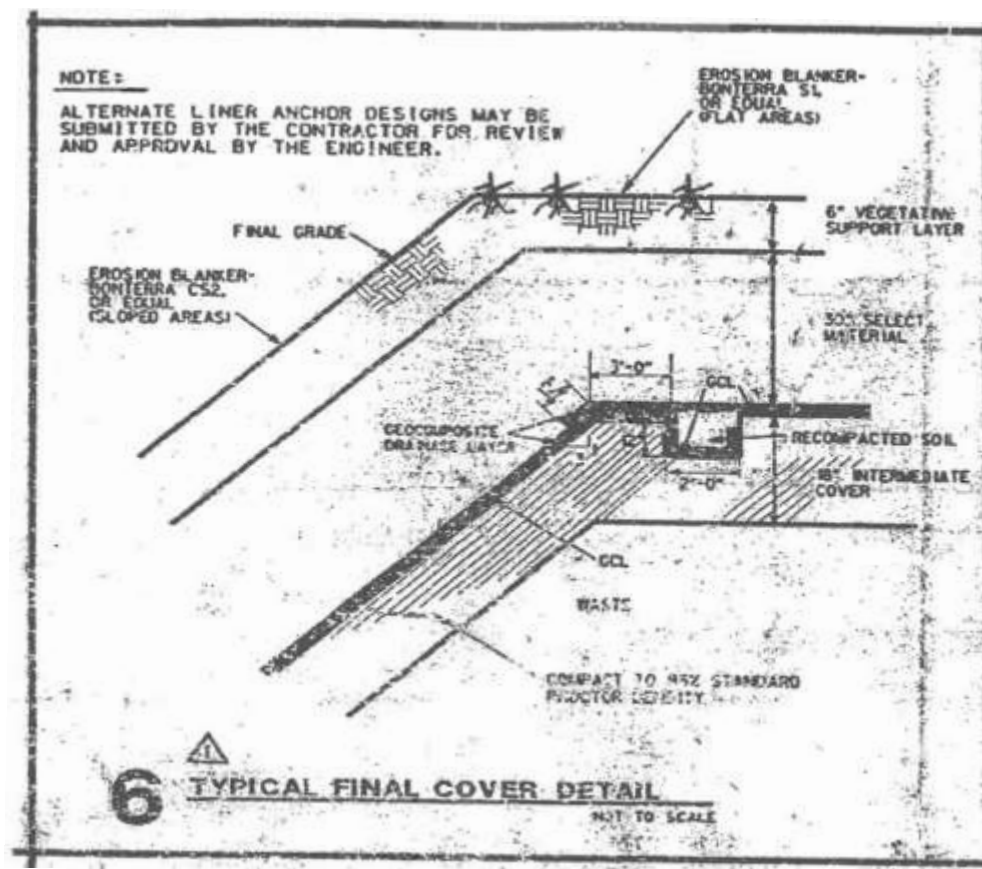


# METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL

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Reference: Drawing Titled, "Closure Plan for the Metro Thermal Ash Monofill", dated Sept 2002; Rev. January 2003,  
Prepared by Gresham Smith and Partners, Craig S. Parker, P.E.

## **Final Cover Design Configuration**

- ❖ 3H:1V Sideslopes – low permeability soil  
(placed at  $k < 10^{-7}$  cm/s)
- ❖ Mid-Slope Benches (10' width; 10:1 backslope – 1' Bench Gutter) with Underdrains (4"  $\Phi$  pipe/Stone/GT-S wrap)
- ❖ Three Letdown Structures (with Underdrains)
- ❖ Perimeter Drainage Channels(with Underdrains)
- ❖ Plunge Pools at Letdowns
- ❖ All flows to on-site Sediment Pond



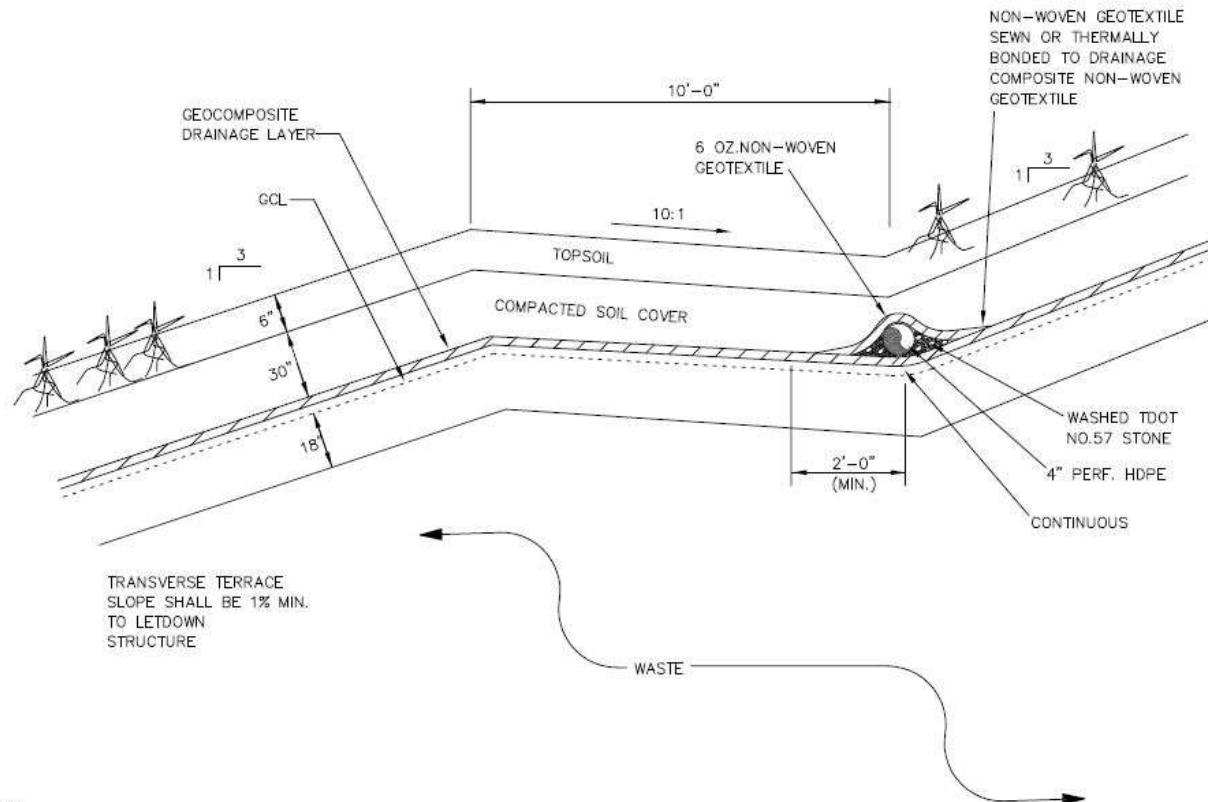
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G:\CAD\Gresham Smith And Partners\GSP 10-1\sheets\GSP-A0003.dwg - 9/10/2010 3:28 PM



### REFERENCE:

CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS ENTITLED, "METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL CLOSURE," PREPARED BY GRESHAM SMITH AND PARTNERS, JUNE 2003, SHEET C.6, DETAIL 4.

**METRO-DAVIDSON ASH MONOFILL**  
**GSP DESIGN DETAIL:**  
**BENCH**

DRAWN BY: J.A.L.	CHECKED BY:	SCALE: N.T.S.	FIGURE NO. 3
DATE: Sep. 2010	PROJECT NO. GSP 10-1	FILE NAME GSP-A0003	

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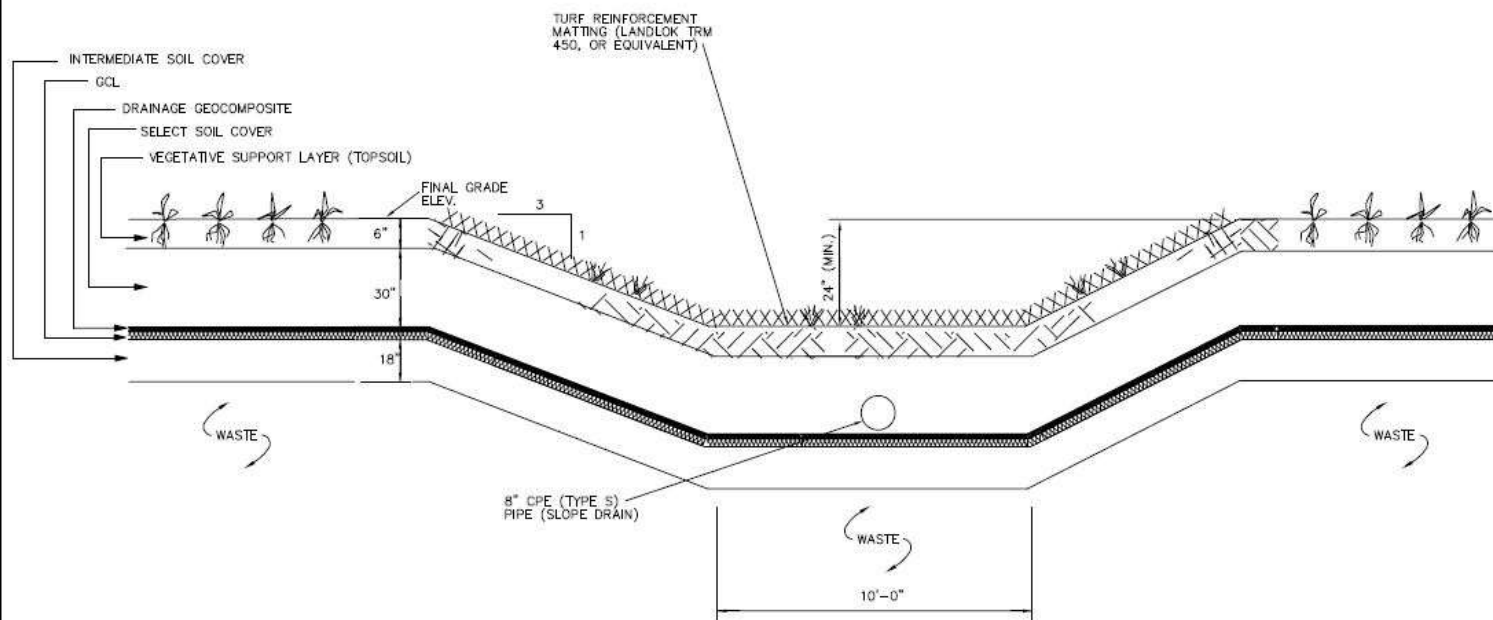
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### REFERENCE:

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**METRO-DAVIDSON ASH MONOFILL**  
**GSP DESIGN DETAIL:**  
**LETDOWN STRUCTURE**

DRAWN BY: J.A.L.	CHECKED BY:	SCALE: N.T.S.	FIGURE NO. 4
DATE: Sep. 2010	PROJECT NO. GSP 10-1	FILE NAME GSP-A0004	

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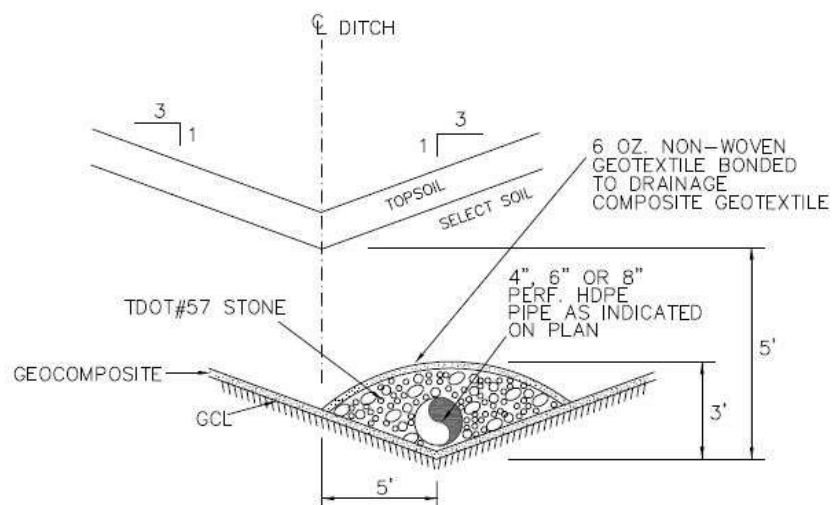
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### REFERENCE:

CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS ENTITLED, "METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL CLOSURE," PREPARED BY GRESHAM SMITH AND PARTNERS, JUNE 2003, SHEET C.6, DETAIL 13.

**METRO-DAVIDSON ASH MONOFILL**  
GSP DESIGN DETAIL:  
PERIMETER UNDERDRAIN

DRAWN BY:	CHECKED BY:	SCALE:	FIGURE NO.
J.A.L.		N.T.S.	5
DATE:	PROJECT NO.	FILE NAME	
Sep. 2010	GSP 10-1	GSP-A0005	

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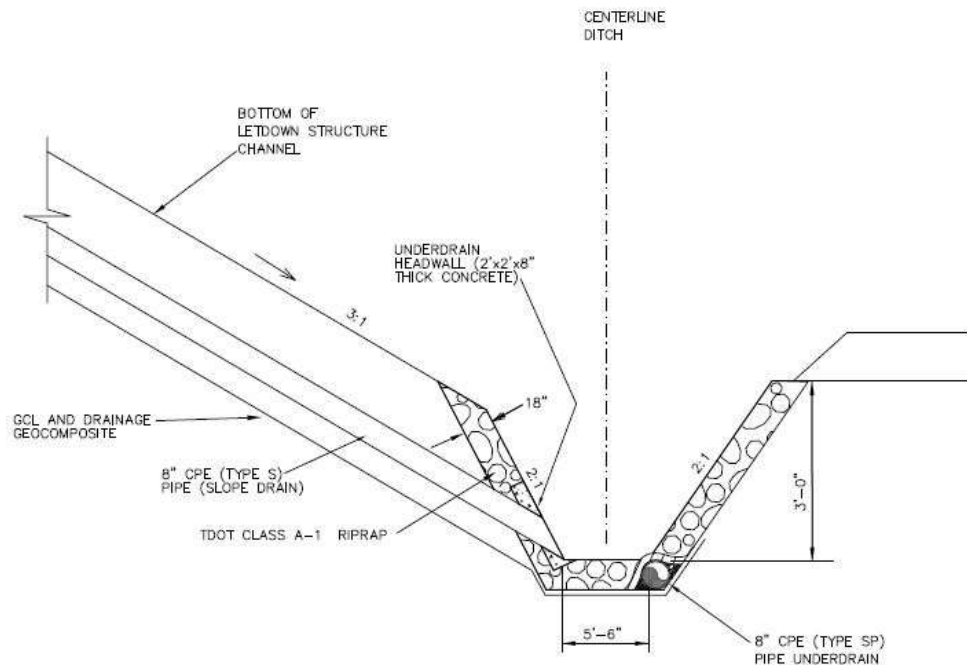
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### REFERENCE:

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**METRO-DAVIDSON ASH MONOFILL**  
GSP DESIGN DETAIL:  
TYPICAL PLUNGE POOL

DRAWN BY: J.A.L.	CHECKED BY:	SCALE: N.T.S.	FIGURE NO. 6
DATE: Sep. 2010	PROJECT NO. GSP 10-1	FILE NAME GSP-A0007	

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## Weekend Rainfall Totals - May 1st & 2nd, 2010 Tennessee



Source: CoCoRaHS

0 25 50 100 150  
Miles

### Precipitation Contours

In Inches

0.01" - 2.00"	8.01" - 10.00"
2.01" - 4.00"	10.01" - 12.00"
4.01" - 6.00"	12.01" - 14.00"
6.01" - 8.00"	14.01" - 16.00"
	16.01" - 20.00"

This map is an interpolation of actual reported values,  
but should be considered an estimation only.

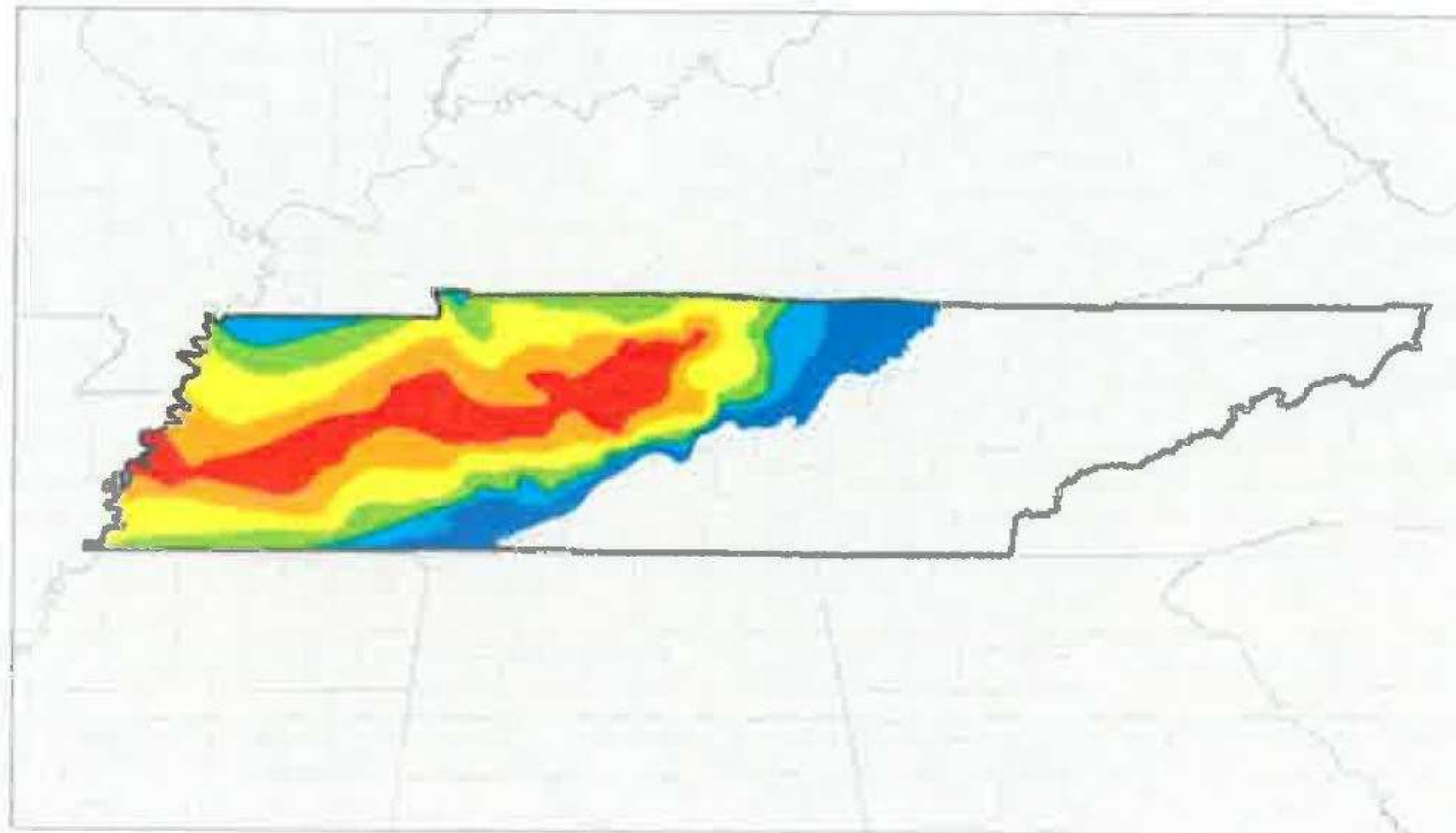
Created by the National Weather Service Forecast  
Offices Nashville, Tennessee & Louisville, Kentucky



## **May 1, 2010 to May 3, 2010**

- ❖ >13.4 “ Rainfall at site (elsewhere 17” to 19.4 “)
- ❖ >1,000-Year/48-Hour event
- ❖ Site inaccessible until ~ May 5<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ New Record River Flood Levels across Middle TN





**Tennessee Extreme Event of May 1-2, 2010**  
**Average Recurrence Intervals (ARI) for 48-Hour Duration**



0 25 50 Miles

0 25 50 Kilometers

Created by Hydrometeorological Design Studies Center  
Office of Hydrologic Development  
National Weather Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ARI (years)

< 10  
10 - 50  
50 - 100  
100 - 200  
200 - 500  
500 - 1,000  
> 1,000



**May 3, 2010**

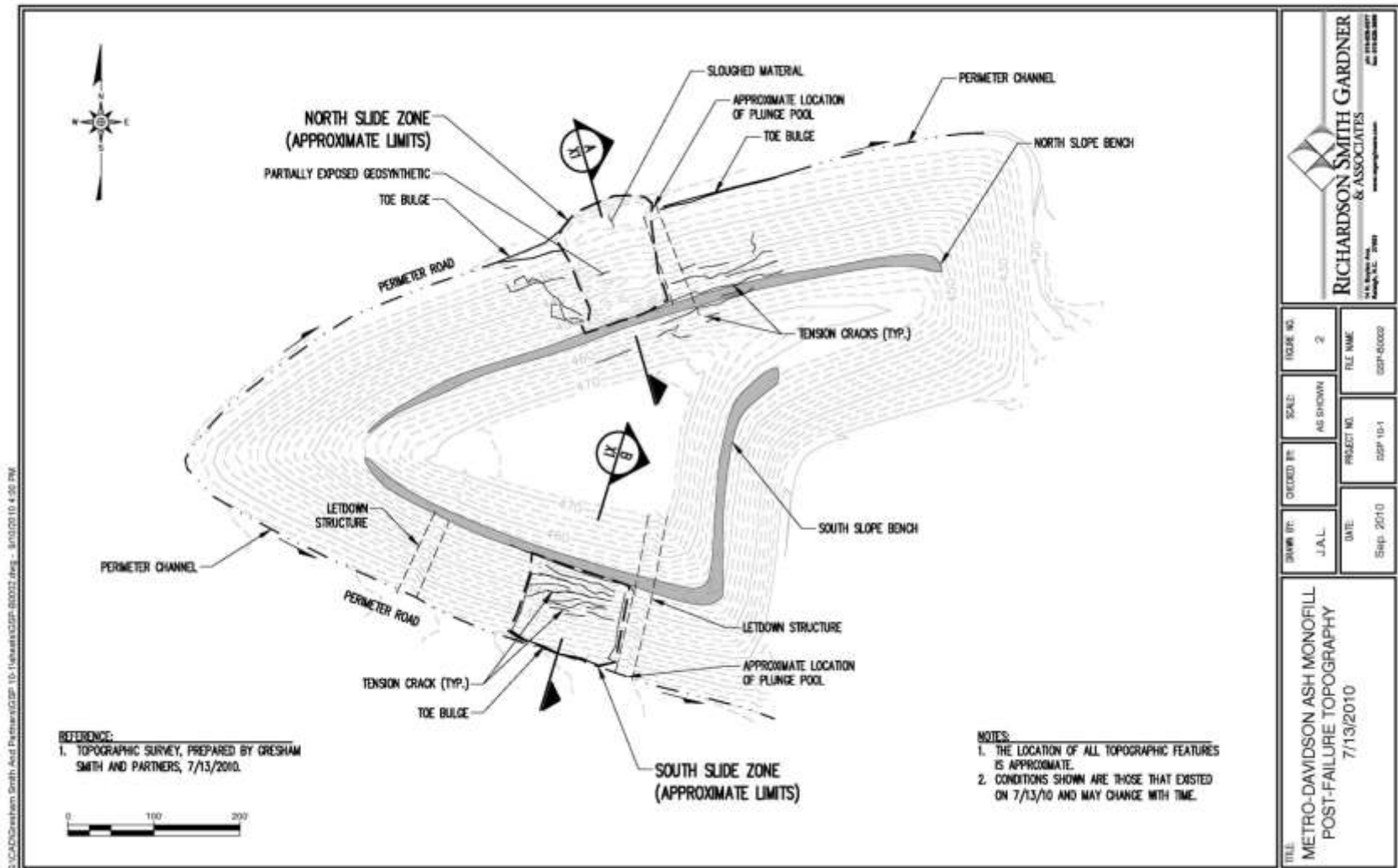


# METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL

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**Photo 2. (North Slope) Scarp Immediately Down Slope from Bench**





**Photo 3. (North Slope) Scarp and Exposed Geocomposite**





**Photo 4.** (North Slope) Crack and Letdown at East Side of Failure, Scarp at Top





**Photo 5.** (North Slope) Sloughed Cover Soil at Toe





**Photo 6. (North Slope) Bulge at Toe**





**Photo 7. (South Slope) Bulge at Toe**





**Photo 8. (South Slope) Bulge at Toe**





**Photo 9.** (South Slope) Tension Crack Below Bench

## **May 7, 2010 Conditions**

- ❖ No intrusive/exploratory investigations “allowed” – just replace
- ❖ South & North Slopes impacted (~ 2 acres total)
- ❖ Significant material movement - North Slope only – DGC exposed
- ❖ Both areas: toe bulging & extensive upslope Tension Cracking
- ❖ Perimeter channels - flat bottom slopes/lower capacity
- ❖ No visible water flow in toe areas – although signs of significant water beneath North Slope Material
- ❖ Benches – flatter than designed and backslope less than designed
- ❖ Drainage Geocomposite and bench drain piping outlets - not visible



## Analysis

### Topographic Mapping Comparisons (2005 & 2010):

- ❖ North & South benches have similar slopes & capacities
- ❖ Perimeter Channels have flat slopes (North 0.4% avg) and South (1% avg) & low capacities
- ❖ Contributing watersheds – similar for each slide area

## **Analysis (Theorized)**

### **Combination of Factors:**

- ❖ Initial, small displacements due to toe saturation - progressed upslope – created T-cracks
- ❖ Mobilized shear strength along soil/DGC interface and within soil cover
- ❖ Progressive loss of frictional resistance along the soil/ geocomposite interface
  - Tension in upper DGC GT- S reduced “pillowing” friction
- ❖ Increase in downslope driving force - eventually exceeded buttressing
- ❖ Tension crack development - accelerated surface water to the geocomposite creating excessive head in the drainage geocomposite
  - Decreased normal load on soil/DGC interface
- ❖ Final Cover “floated” over the geosynthetics (North Slope only) - exposing DGC
- ❖ Excessive head was believed to be due to:
  - Loss in perimeter channel/underdrain capacity to drain the final cover drainage layer
  - Rate of flow into the drainage geocomposite
- ❖ Why North Slope Only? Differences in North and South slopes – none apparent, prior to construction

## **Factors (Theorized)**

- ❖ Backwater in the plunge pools and Perimeter Channels contributed to inundate the upgradient perimeter underdrains on both slopes
- ❖ Critical movement occurred along the weakest un-reinforced interface (soil/drainage geocomposite)
- ❖ Critical movement did not occur along the DGC/GCL interface – due to tensile strength of the materials (anchored at the top of slope)
- ❖ Soils with high PI (33) increased susceptibility to shrink/swell (tension crack development)



## **Recommended Remediation**

### **South Slide Zone (SubArea A):**

- ❖ Regrade T-cracked slope areas and revegetate
- ❖ Provide a “break” in the bench drainage geocomposite (inspect underdrains)
- ❖ “Daylight” the drainage geocomposite into the perimeter channel through cap drain modification - disconnect from P. Underdrain
- ❖ Clean/reshape perimeter channel

## **Recommended Remediation**

North Slide Zone (SubAreas B, C, D):

- ❖ Completely reconstruct the cap and drains subgrade to topsoil - (C only)
- ❖ Regrade T-cracked slope areas and revegetate (B, D)
- ❖ Provide a “break” in the bench drainage geocomposite (inspect underdrains) (B,C,D)
- ❖ “Daylight” the drainage geocomposite into the perimeter channel through cap drain modification - disconnect from P. Underdrain (B,C,D)
- ❖ Clean/reshape perimeter channel



## **FEMA Estimates/Site Inspections** **(mid-May 2010 through June 2010)**

- ❖ Cost Estimates (Time and unit price based)
- ❖ Site Interviews (2)

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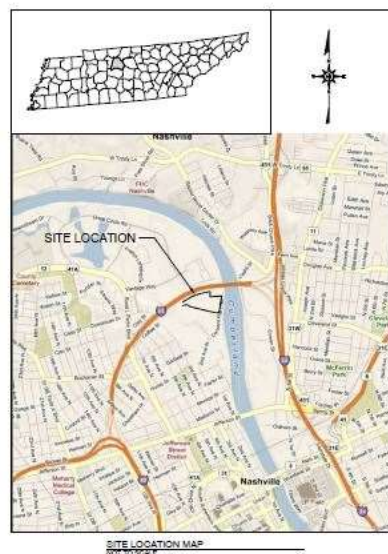
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**PUBLIC WORKS**

## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

# METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL CAP RESTORATION CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS

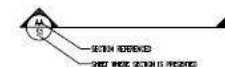
JUNE 2011



SHEET NO.	DRAWING NO.	TITLE	REVISION
1		TITLE - COVER SHEET	△
2	S1	EXISTING CONDITIONS (POST-FAILURE SURVEY)	△
3	S2	SITE RESTORATION PLAN	△
4	X1	SECTIONS (SHEET 1 OF 2)	△
5	X2	SECTIONS (SHEET 2 OF 2)	△
6	EC1	FINAL COVER AND EROSION CONTROL DETAILS (SHEET 1 OF 2)	△
7	EC2	FINAL COVER AND EROSION CONTROL DETAILS (SHEET 2 OF 2)	△

ISSUED FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

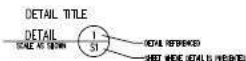
STANDARD SECTION LOCATION CALLOUT (SHEET AND DETAIL)



STANDARD DETAIL CALLOUT



STANDARD DETAIL LABEL AND CALLOUT



STANDARD REVISION CALLOUT (SHEET AND DETAIL)



**SAFETY NOTE:**  
Contractor shall be solely responsible for initiating, maintaining and supervising all safety precautions and programs in connection with the Work. Contractor shall comply with all applicable Laws and Regulations relating to the safety of persons or property, or to the protection of persons or property from damage, injury, or loss; and shall erect and maintain all necessary safeguards for such safety and protection.

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PLC FILE  
05/11/2011

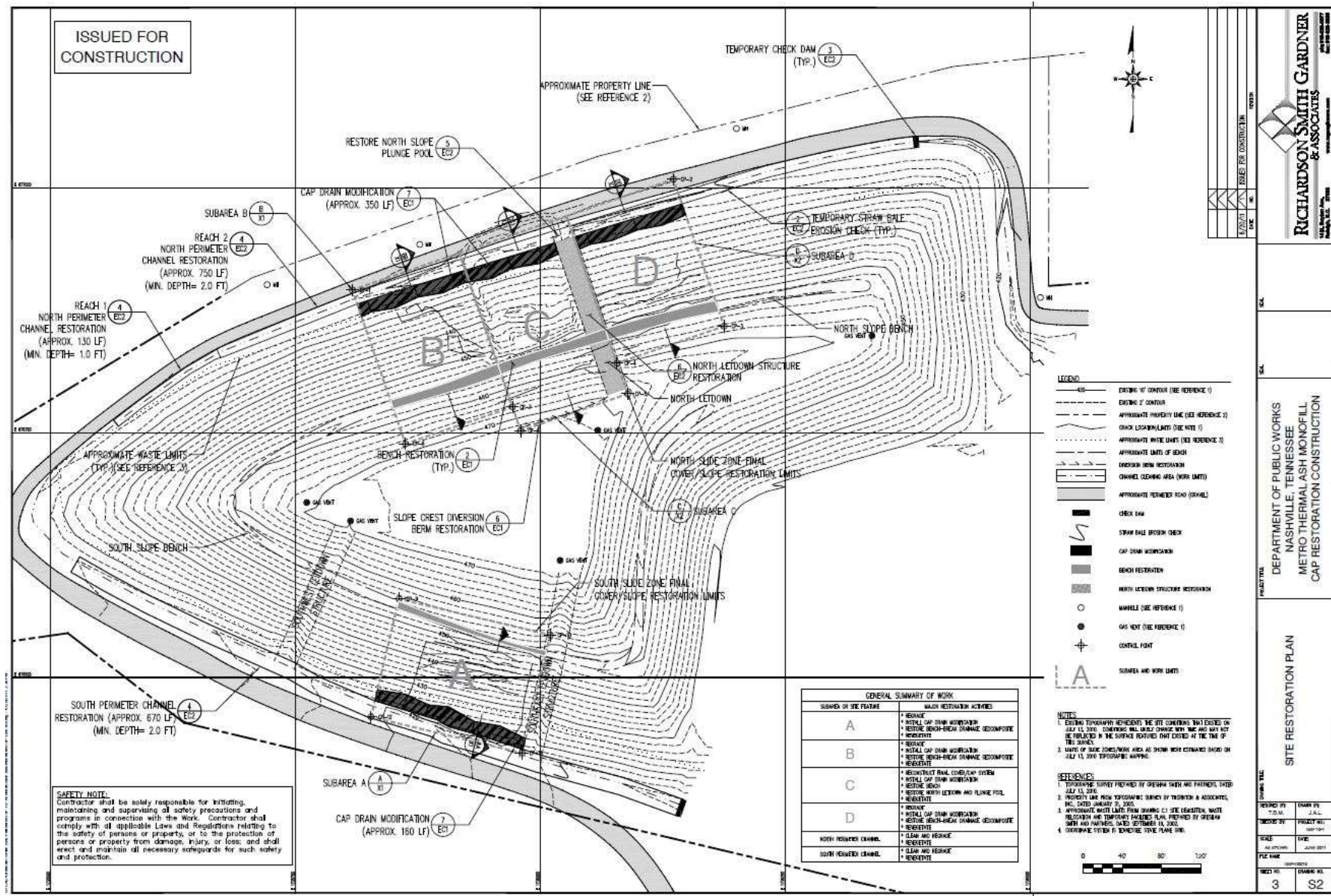


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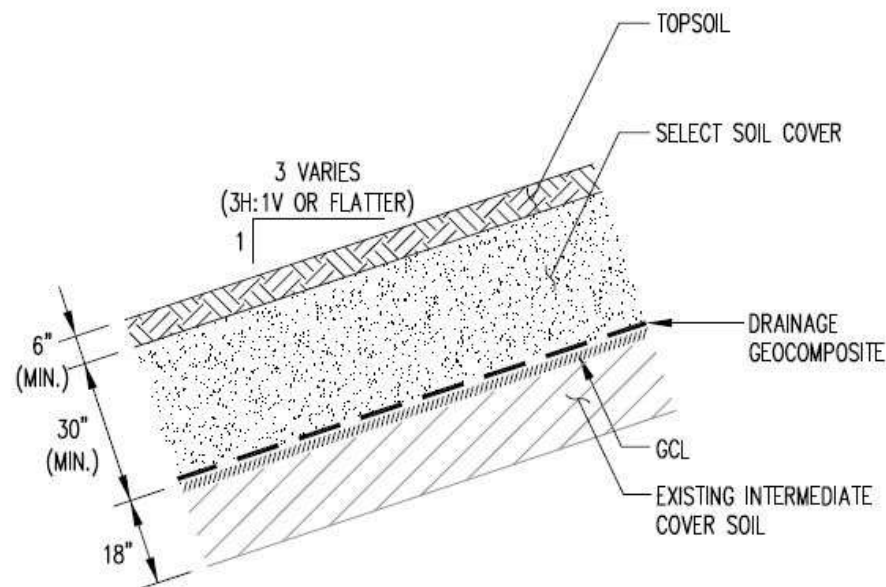


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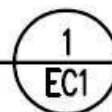
### REFERENCE:

CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS ENTITLED, "METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL CLOSURE," PREPARED BY GRESHAM SMITH AND PARTNERS, JUNE 2003, SHEET C.6, DETAIL 6.

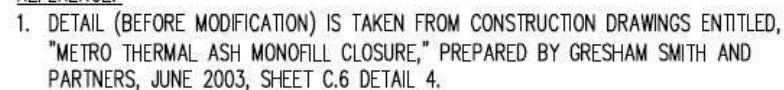
## FINAL COVER SECTION

DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE





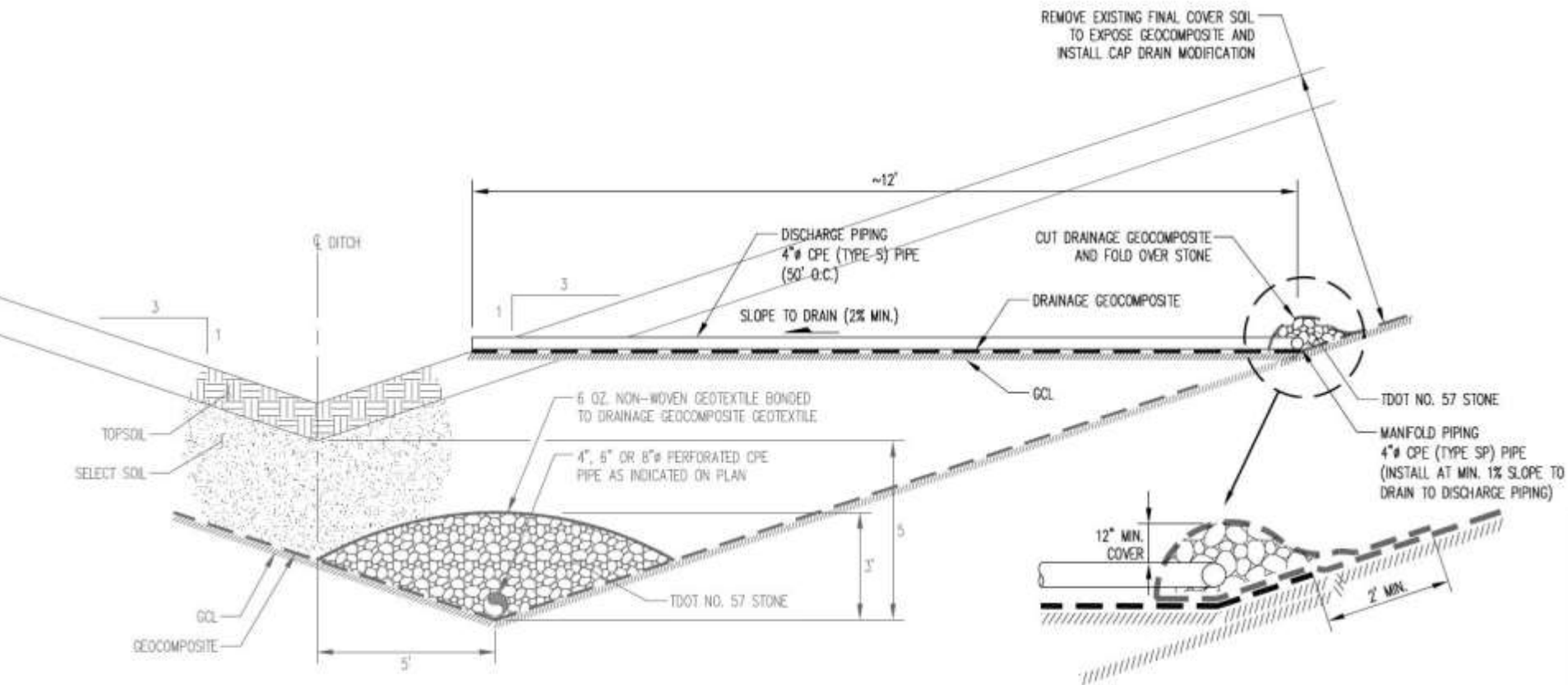


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### CAP DRAIN MODIFICATION

DETAIL  
NOT TO SCALE

7  
EC1

**SAFETY NOTE:**  
Contractor shall be solely





**Grading Subarea-A**





**Exposing Bench Drain pipe Subarea-A**





**Excavation for Cap Drain Modification, Subarea-A**



## **Metro Thermal Ash Monofill Cap Restoration**



**Subarea "A" prior to cap drain  
modifications being installed**

**7-29-11**





**Subarea-A, bench restoration, looking southeast**





**Removing vegetative layer, Subarea-B**





**Exposed Bench Drain, top of slope, Subarea-B**





**Subarea-B, completeing bench restoration**





**Subarea-B, completed bench restoration. Backfilled bench, added topsoil**





**Cutting in slope for cap drain modification, Subarea-B, looking east**



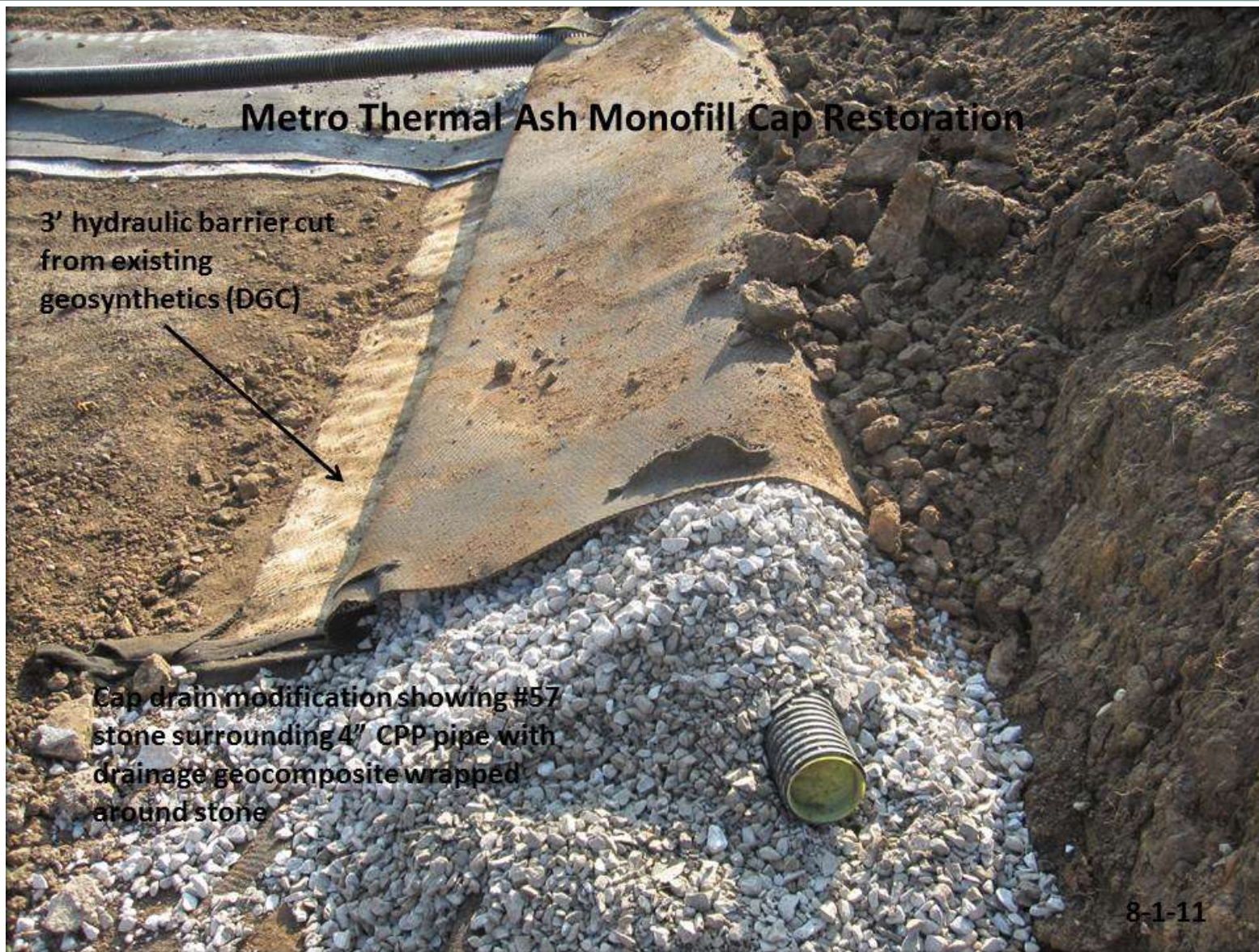
## Metro Thermal Ash Monofill Cap Restoration



Installation of cap drain  
modifications in subarea "B"

8-1-11





8-1-11



## **Metro Thermal Ash Monofill Cap Restoration**



**Revegetation efforts "Subarea B"**

**7-27-11**





**Subarea-C, Removing cover material to expose liner over entire slope**





**Subarea-C, underdrain in eastern let-down structure**





**Subarea-C, Removing cover material to expose liner in bench**





**Subarea-C, deploy GCL panels**



Subarea-C, GCL deployment





Subarea-C, sand placement over GCL



**Subarea-C, drainage composite in anchor trench**





**Subarea-C, bench restoration**





Subarea-C, letdown underdrain





**Subarea-C, soil cover placement**









Subarea-C, drainage composite deployment





Subarea-C, zip tie drainage composite





**Subarea-C, toe drain construction**





**Subarea-C, toe drain construction**





**Subarea-C, cap drain modification construction**





**Subarea-C, soil cover placement over cap drain modification**





Subarea-C, underdrain coming from Subarea-D





**Subarea-C, underdrain coming from Subarea-D**





Subarea-C, final grading





**Subarea-C, seed and straw placement**





**North perimeter channel placement**





**Subarea-C, letdown structure**





**North letdown structure, plunge pool**





**Subarea-C, top of landfill**





**Subarea-C straw, access road gravel placed**





**Subarea-D, removing vegetative layer**





**Exposing Bench Drain, top of slope, Subarea-D, looking west**





**Subarea-D, exposed composite in toe of slope soil bulge, close up**





**Subarea-D, locating underdrain, edge of drainage composite exposed**



**Metro Thermal Ash Monofill Cap Restoration**



**Excavation to expose underlying synthetics for installation of Cap Drain Modification in Subarea "D"**

**7-28-11**





**Metro Thermal Ash Monofill Cap Restoration**

Subarea "D" toe drain relocated into  
lowest point below perimeter drain

8-2-11





Subarea-D, locating underdrain pipe, pipe out of subgrade ditch, standing water where pipe should be in ditch





**Regrading Subarea-D**





**Subarea-D, bench restoration**





**Subarea-D, completed bench restoration. Backfilled bench, added topsoil**





**Subarea-C, soil boring 2 depth**



## **Key Findings During Construction**

- ❖ Perimeter Toe Drain in SubArea C/D was crushed (~ 120 LF)
- ❖ Perimeter Toe Drain in SubArea D was mis-located (i.e. not in the low point) and not perforated.



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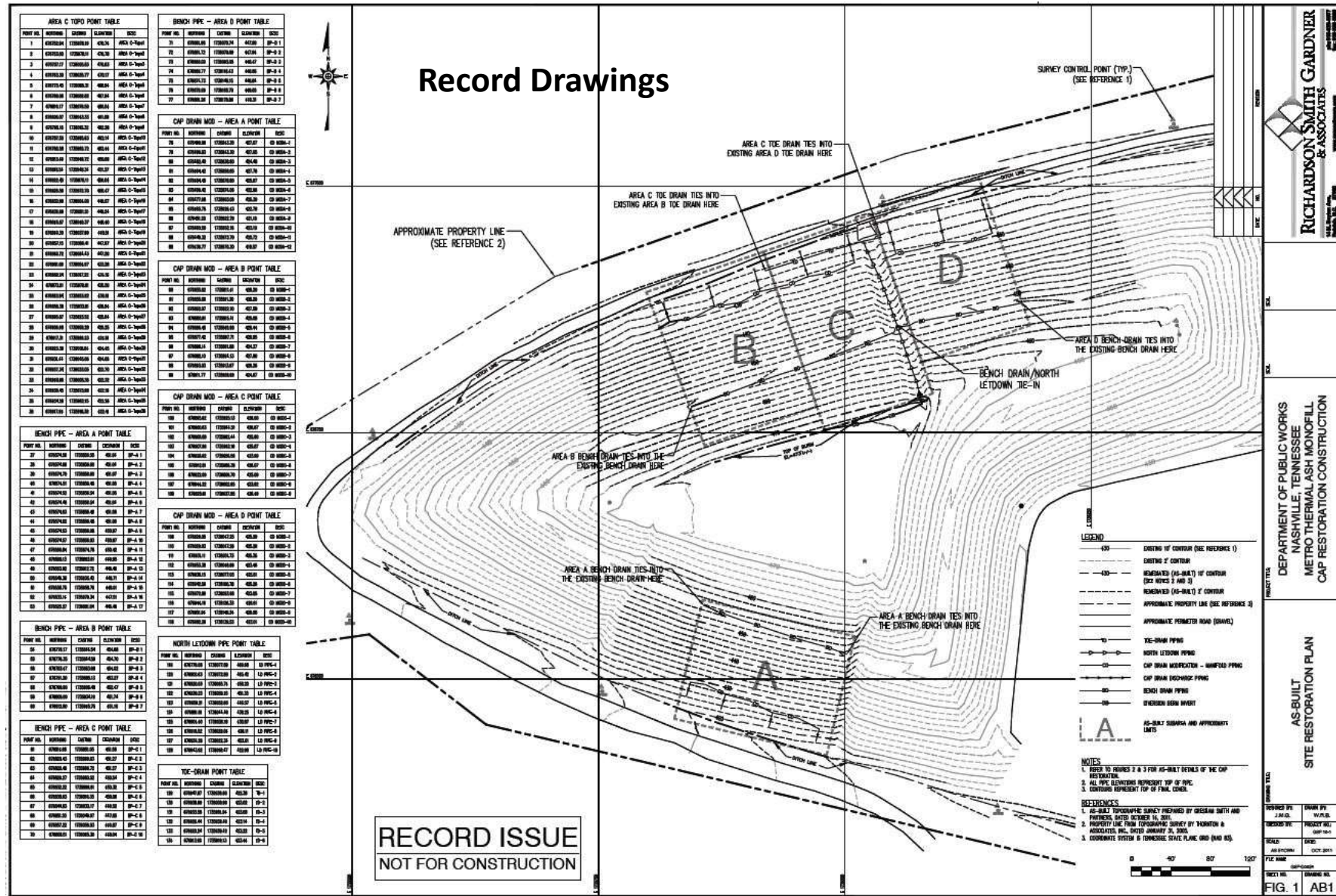




# METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL

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AS-BUILT - FINAL COVER AND EROSION CONTROL DETAILS (SHEET 2 OF 2)		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE METRO THERMAL ASH MONOFILL CAP RESTORATION CONSTRUCTION		 <b>RICHARDSON SMITH GARDNER</b> & ASSOCIATES 11440 Highway 404 Nashville, TN 37217 615-833-0077	
SHEET NO.		SHEET NO.		SHEET NO.	
FIG. 3		FIG. 3		FIG. 3	



# **Post – Remedial Construction 2012 to Present**



## 2014 Aerial





## Discharge end of Cap Drain Modification Piping



## Possible Culprits





**OR**



## South Slope July 2012





## **South Slope Cracks – July 2012**





## **South Slope Cracks – August 2012**





## **South Slope Cracks – September 2012**



## South Slope - 2016





## South Slope - 2016



## North Slope - 2016





## North Slope - 2016



**Take-Aways:**

- 
- 1. Good (perimeter) drainage is critical.**
  - 2. There is a storm coming that will exceed your design and impact even “good” final cover designs.**
  - 3. Redundancy in final cover designs is needed**
  - 4. Post-closure monitoring/inspection & maintenance is never finished**